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Application No. 10/567,526
Filed: February 7, 2006
TC Art Unit: 3721
Confirmation No.: 9274

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please **delete** the passages between line 30 on page 3 and line 6 on page 4 in their entirety and **replace** them with the following:

A method and device for packing tubes that arrive continuously from a production line are disclosed. More particularly, tubes arriving in a grouping unit are arranged in groups of tubes lying next to one another. A first group of tubes is pushed on a first, uppermost row of mandrels that are arranged on a plate-like mandrel support. The plate-like mandrel support has the dimensions of the clear opening of the box to be filled.

Once the mandrel support is pushed and the first group of tubes are pushed onto the first, uppermost row of mandrels, the mandrel support is lifted and is traveled away from the grouping unit, whereupon the next group of tubes is formed and the mandrel support is again moved to the grouping unit. Then a second group of tubes is pushed onto a second mandrel row immediately below the first, uppermost row of mandrels. This procedure is repeated until all mandrels of the mandrel support are occupied with tubes.

The mandrel support can then be pivoted and moved into an open box where the tubes are pushed off from all mandrels simultaneously into the box, whereupon the mandrel support travels back to its original position and is ready for the next loading.

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Please **replace** the paragraph on between lines 24 on page 6 and line 17 on page 7 with the following:

Next, a new group of tubes T is again advanced by way of the transport belt 10 into the ejection position, whereupon the mandrel support 20 is again moved in the direction of arrow I to the grouping unit 1, after this is again lowered in the direction of arrow II, and the next layer of tubes is pushed by the slider 13 onto the second row of mandrels, i.e. the second to top row of mandrels. Hereby, the downwards movement is traveled in the arrow direction II downwards only until the already pushed-on layer of tubes lies on the rear free end of the tubes to be pushed on, so that these tubes are guided between the already pushed-on tubes and the product receivers 11 during the displacement. Accordingly, no tilting movement may take place during the push-off. This movement sequence is repeated until the mandrel support 20 is completely loaded (charged) with tubes. After the last row of tubes have been pushed on, the mandrel support is again traveled upwards in the direction of arrow III, and as arrow IV shows, away from the grouping unit 1, whereupon a rotational movement according to arrow VII is then effected, so that now all pushed-on tubes T are held in the vertical direction on the mandrel support 2 with the tube head at the bottom, whereupon this support is lowered in the direction of arrow VI and all tubes are simultaneously pushed into the already standing box B. The tubes T which are located in the box B are all simultaneously pushed off from the mandrel support 20 by way of a pull-off mechanism which is yet to be described, and this mandrel support travels back again into its initial position, whereupon a new cycle begins.

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Please replace the paragraph on page 9, between lines 21 and 34 with the following:

The actual plate 21 carrying the mandrels is held in a movable manner. A chassis plate 30 is accordingly present through which piston rods of piston-cylinder units 24 pass, and which holds the movable plate 21 carrying the mandrels. The plate 21 carrying the mandrels 25[[~~21~~]] is provided with suitable bores through which the respective screws engage, and these engage into the rearward end of the mandrels 25. Lateral carrier bars 27 are arranged on the chassis plate 30 along the vertical side edge. Ejection rods 26 are assembled on these lateral carrier bars 27. A distancer 28 in each case is held on both sides between in each case two adjacent ejection rods 26. Accordingly, the ejection rods 26 run parallel and at a distance in each case to two adjacent rows of mandrels 25.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, between lines 1 and 20 with the following:

If all mandrels 25 are loaded with tubes T, the chassis plate 30 with the mandrel-carrying plate 21 and the piston-cylinder units 29[[~~30~~]] is removed from the grouping unit, is traversed upwards, and is turned by 90° by way of a pivot element 23[[~~33~~]]. Then, as previously mentioned, the complete mandrel support 20 is lowered and the tubes T are moved into the box B, and in this position the plate 21 is then pulled towards the chassis plate 30 by way of the piston-cylinder units 29, wherein simultaneously the ejection rods 26 resting at an unchangeable distance on the

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lateral carrier bars 27 step into operation and pull the tubes T from the mandrels 25. Thereafter the mandrel supports 20 as a whole are moved again into the initial original position. This situation is represented once again schematically in Figure 3. Again the box B standing on its base surface with the bag-like film lining S is evident. A few tubes T which have been filled and with their closures V placed thereon are shown filled in the box B, and simultaneously also the mandrel support 20 in the already pulled-off position is represented, in which the mandrel-carrying plate 21 is already advanced into its filling position, so that the mandrels 25 may be loaded again.

Please **replace** the paragraph between line 23 on page 11 and line 2 on page 12 with the following:

In Figure 7, this mandrel 25 may be recognized in the view from above, wherein here however a tube T with the closure V placed on is drawn in the placed-on condition. The individually represented mandrel 25 is arranged between two parallel, adjacent ejection rods 26. The lower, open end of the tube reaches up to practically at least approximately the upper edges of the ejection rods 26[[~~25~~]]. The adjacent tubes T are drawn in a dashed manner. Here one recognizes that the tubes T of the same row as well as the adjacent tubes T of the subsequent following row lie on the same ejection rod 26. This is possible because the tubes T, as already mentioned, are pushed on, in each case offset by half the diameter. As already mentioned but not shown in the drawing, accordingly also the mandrels 25 of adjacent rows are arranged offset to one another by the corresponding distance.

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